



CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Portantino called the **REGULAR MEETING** of the City Council of the City of La Cañada Flintridge to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers present: Stephen A. Del Guercio, Laura Olhasso, David A. Spence, Mayor Pro Tem Gregory C. Brown, and Mayor Anthony J. Portantino

Staff members present: City Manager Alexander, City Attorney Steres, Director of Public Works Castellanos, Director of Community Development Stanley, City Treasurer Voss, City Engineer Kwan, Public Safety Coordinator Stegner, Management Analyst Wilson, and City Clerk Sessman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Girl Scouts Carolyn Reich and Julia Rowe.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Julia Rowe and Carolyn Reich, Girl Scout Troop 589, gave a brief presentation on their Silver Project, "Operation Gratitude" and requested the support of the City Council, City staff and the community to assemble care packages to be delivered to American troops in Iraq.

Marjorie Cates, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, offered to donate numerous books for "Operation Gratitude" and requested that the girl scouts assist her by picking them up from her house.

Jay Pengra, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, stated that he had filed a claim against the City seeking payment for damages incurred to his home as a result of flooding caused by the October 2004 rains and a re-slurry job conducted by the City that did not adhere. He expressed his disappointment that he was not given prior notification of the City Council's discussion regarding his claim.

In response to a request from Mayor Portantino regarding this claim, Public Works Director Castellanos explained that staff investigated the claim and determined that flooding was due to the unusual amount of rain which had occurred, not from the slurry coat not adhering to the roadway. City Manager Alexander explained that further discussion may be better suited to a closed session discussion and that claimants are not customarily invited to attend. He explained that the Pengra claim was submitted to the claims adjustor for investigation and it was their recommendation that the City Council deny the claim.

Mayor Portantino requested that, as a courtesy, claimants be notified of City Council discussions regarding their items, so they may attend if they so desire.

Mary Barrie, Trails Council President, expressed her thanks to Mr. Luis Lluís and Mrs. Barbara Lluís of 5350 Harter Lane, and Ms. Patricia Compeau of 4465 Indiana Avenue, for granting easements for the Gould Canyon Trail and the Loop Trail across the freeway. She also wanted to thank the City Council for their efforts.

Mayor Portantino requested that letters of thanks be sent to Mr. and Mrs. Lluís and Ms. Patricia Compeau for their generous contributions to the community.

PRESENTATIONS

The Public Safety Update for the Fire Department was presented by Chief Singer.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Don Voss.

Presentation on the Power Reliability Improvement Efforts was made by Christine McCloud, Southern California Edison.

Councilmember Olhasso thanked Southern California Edison for their efforts and asked if there were long term plans for undergrounding wires. In response, Ms. McCloud explained that the cost would be prohibitive, and would fall on the customer or the City. She explained that numerous above-ground power lines run along property line easements, which would involve putting them in the public right-of-way.

In response to an inquiry by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, Ms. McCloud explained that the project was completed toward the end of last year, although a lot of the preliminary work was started in late 2004.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown requested that Edison provide the City Council with a report that provided the following statistics: total number of hours customers were without power, total number of outages, and key outage programs in the City. There were no objections.

Councilmember Del Guercio expressed his support for additional information/statistics from Southern California Edison.

Mayor Portantino thanked Ms. McCloud and Edison for their hard work and continued efforts to improve Edison services throughout the community.

REORDERING OF AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Portantino requested the reordering of the Agenda so that agenda item #15 would be discussed at this time. There were no objections.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilmember Spence requested that agenda item #11 be pulled for discussion.

11. Consideration of a Resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE ESTABLISHING AN EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY."

In response to a request by Councilmember Spence, City Manager Alexander provided a brief informational overview of the proposed resolution. He explained that Assembly Bill (AB) 1234, effective January 1, has two main aspects to it, the first requires the City to adopt a written reimbursement policy for City officials relating to expenses incurred during the performance of official duties and, second, requires City Council members and Commissioners to obtain ethics training every two years. He further explained that initial training must be completed by January 1, 2007 and that the training curriculum will be developed by the State Attorney General.

In response to an inquiry by Councilmember Olhasso, City Manager Alexander explained that officials may take an approved course offered by an outside local agency (i.e. League of California Cities or California Contract Cities Association).

Mayor Pro Tem Brown stated that this is a state mandated issue. He noted that the City of La Cañada Flintridge has not had any problems with reimbursements and expressed his desire not to impose unnecessary paperwork. Mayor Pro Tem Brown requested the following changes for clarification purposes and to avoid unnecessary paperwork: **1)** Requested that under non-reimbursement items, the term “charitable contributions or events” be changed to “fundraiser or fundraising,” **2)** Requested that a CPI be built into this policy so that the City Council does not have to revisit these numbers every year, **3)** Requested the last paragraph under “Lodging” be changed to read as follows: “In the event that government rates are not available at a given time or in a given area, lodging rates that do not exceed \$250 per night are presumed reasonable and, hence, reimbursable,” and **4)** Requested that the section regarding “Airport Parking” be removed from the policy. There was consensus of the City Council to approve the requested changes.

Motion by Councilmember Spence, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, to approve **Resolution No. 06-09** entitled, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE ESTABLISHING AN EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT POLICY,” with the requested changes.

Motion by Councilmember Spence, seconded by Councilmember Olhasso, to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

1. Approval of Minutes of the City Council:
 - (a) July 5, 2005 Regular Meeting
 - (b) November 7, 2005 Regular Meeting
 - (c) January 17, 2006 Regular Meeting
2. Approval of Warrant Resolution No. 06-03 dated February 21, 2006, for \$314,911.46.
3. Receive and file Commission Meeting Agendas:
 - (a) Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda from the February 8, 2006 Meeting.
4. Receive and file Monthly Report of Investments for the period ending January 31, 2006.
5. Consideration of a Resolution entitled, “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE TRAIL EASEMENT DEDICATION AT 5350 HARTER LANE AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO FILE THE EASEMENT DOCUMENTS WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECORDER.”

6. Consideration of a Resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ACCEPT THE TRAIL EASEMENT DEDICATION AT 4465 INDIANA AVENUE AND AUTHORIZING STAFF TO FILE THE EASEMENT DOCUMENTS WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECORDER."
7. Consideration of a Request to Waive Special Event Permit Application Fee by La Cañada Flintridge Chamber of Commerce for "Fiesta Days Parade 2006" to be held on Monday, May 29, 2006 by finding that the public's welfare interests are best served by such waiver.
8. Consideration of a Request to Waive Special Event Permit Application Fee by Paradise Canyon Elementary School PTA for "Family Fun Run 2006" to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2006 by finding that the public's welfare interests are best served by such waiver.
9. Consideration of a Resolution entitled, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE COMMITTING THE CITY TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TO MANAGE DOMESTIC INCIDENTS INCLUDING ACTS OF TERRORISM AND DISASTERS."
10. Approval and Acceptance of work by Electro Construction Corporation for the Oak Grove Sport Field Lighting Project at La Cañada High School (Cash Contract 05/06-4) and authorization for staff to file the Notice of Completion.
12. Receive and file 2005 Annual Report.

For the purpose of discussion, the following meetings will be held concurrently: Mayor/Chair Portantino called to order the Special Meeting of the Redevelopment Agency, Local Financing Authority and Public Improvement Corporation to be held concurrently with the City Council. All members were present.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Councilmember/Board member Spence, seconded by Councilmember/Board member Olhasso, to approve the following Consent Calendar items:

13. Approval of Minutes:
 - (a) March 15, 2004 and February 7, 2005 Redevelopment Agency
 - (b) March 15, 2004 and February 7, 2005 Public Improvement Corporation
 - (c) August 2, 2004 and January 18, 2005 Local Financing Authority
14. City's audit report for Fiscal Year 2004-05 from Moreland & Associates.

The staff report was presented by City Manager/Executive Director Alexander.

City Manager/Executive Director Alexander explained that the City's CAFR shows that the City received total general fund revenues of \$10,012,573 and had total general fund expenditures of \$8,844,357 leaving a positive balance of \$1,168,216. He further explained that after reimbursements to the general fund and transfers in/out to the Non-major Governmental Funds, the City realized an increase to the general fund balance of \$168,041.

City Manager/Executive Director Alexander announced that following their approval the Audit Reports will be made available on the City website.

At this point, Mayor/Chair Portantino adjourned the Special Meeting of the Redevelopment Agency, Local Finance Authority and Public Improvement Corporation.

OTHER BUSINESS

15. Edison Property Concept Plan – Foothill Boulevard at Indiana Avenue

The staff report was presented by Management Analyst Wilson, City Associate Engineer Golnaz Manouchehr-Pour.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown asked how the cell site will be screened from public view and wondered if Public Works or Planning was going to review the landscape design.

Mayor Portantino **OPENED** the public comment period.

Marjorie Cates, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, spoke in support of the project and expressed her appreciation to the City and SCE for listening and working with her to address her concerns.

Liz Blackwelder, a resident of La Cañada Flintridge, expressed her pleasure in seeing this trails loop project brought to fruition.

Christine McCloud, Public Affairs – Region Manager, SCE, expressed her pleasure and honor in working with the City, the Committee, neighbors and staff to find a local solution that meets the needs and access requirements of SCE and contributes to the betterment of the community.

There was no one else wishing to speak, therefore, Mayor Portantino **CLOSED** the public comment period.

Councilmember Olhasso explained that in 2005, as Mayor, she formed an Ad Hoc Committee to develop a Concept Plan for use of the SCE property. She expressed her support for the project and her excitement at seeing the finished project.

Mayor Pro Tem Brown expressed his support and excitement with seeing all the pieces come together to complete the trail. He offered his thanks to SCE for their willingness to work with the City to bring this project to completion.

Councilmember Spence expressed his support for comments made by fellow Councilmembers and offered his thanks to everyone who worked on this project.

Councilmember Del Guercio expressed his support for comments made by fellow Councilmembers and offered a special thanks to SCE, Committee members, the community, La Cañada Valley Beautiful and all interested groups for their hard work and dedication to this project.

Mayor Portantino expressed his support for project and his joy in seeing the Community, SCE, and the committee come together to bring this project to fruition. He offered his thanks to everyone for attaining a “win-win” situation.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Brown, seconded by Councilmember Del Guercio, to approve the Edison property Concept Plan; authorize the City Manager to sign the "Future Design and Construction Agreement"; and direct staff to commence implementation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Portantino presented certificates of commendation to Edison Ad-hoc committee members: Mary Barrie, Marjorie Cates, Rose Manning, Christine McCloud, Robert Stanley, Golnaz Manouchehr-Pour, Gonzalo Venegas, Chris Erskine, Angela Smyth and David Smyth.

Mayor and City Councilmembers' offered their special thanks to Management Analyst Wilson for her dedication and participation in the successful coordination of Edison Ad Hoc Committee.

16. Consideration of Hiring a Sacramento Legislative Advocate.

The staff report was presented by City Manager Alexander.

Councilmember Olhasso stated that she felt that while a lobbyist may be needed for long term issues, the urgent need currently facing La Canada Flintridge is transportation and the proposed infrastructure bond program.

Councilmember Spence felt that it may be difficult to find a lobbyist who was just transportation oriented. He suggested that the City take a more global approach or focus and hire someone who can represent the City on a variety of issues.

Councilmember Del Guercio felt that the lobbyist should be someone who would be able to represent the City's interest on not only transportation issues, but on the bond and the 710 freeway issues as well.

Councilmember Olhasso and Mayor Pro Tem Brown expressed their desire to choose from a larger pool of applicants.

Mayor Portantino commented that some firms may not be able to represent our City due to their representation of other cities with conflicting views. He suggested staff do more research into lobbyists.

Councilmember Spence expressed his concern with contracting with a lobbyist not in Sacramento.

Mayor Portantino suggested that a subcommittee be formed, made up of two Councilmembers, that can interview a number of firms and bring back a recommendation to the City Council. There were no objections.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

Councilmembers' report on meetings attended at the expense of the local agency

Councilmember Olhasso reported that she had recently attended a joint meeting of the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities and the LA County Division of League of California Cities where they discussed the film industry and keeping the industry in California. She mentioned that she sat with a Warner Brothers employee who commended La Cañada Flintridge for their film permit process.